DCI/IC 73-0717

23 July 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Clarke

SUBJECT : Status Report on COINS Project

1. This report is in the form of a fact sheet for use in connection with the IRAC meeting on Monday, 23 July 1973. OMB has requested (by letter of 14 July 1973 from Mr. Bridgewater to Mr. Colby) that a plan for COINS development and FY-75 funding thereof be available for review prior to November 15, 1973. This letter is at Attachment 1.

2. Responsive to prior initiatives involving OMB, DCI and ASD(I), an interagency group chaired by a representative of OASD(I), Dr. Malkin, convened last fall and prepared a COINS Report dated 1 February 1973. The recommendations of this report were approved on behalf of the DCI by letter of 9 April 1973 from General Allen to [   ]   25X1

3. The principal actions recommended by the Report are now being implemented, as follows:

a. The recommendation that ASD(I) become Executive Agent for COINS, under DCI auspices, has been carried out.

b. The recommendation that the COINS Project Office be placed under the Executive Agent has been carried out.

c. The recommendation that the COINS Project Office be staffed by representatives of the entire community stands as follows. The COINS Project Manager states that at present his Office, located at [   ] He states that he is preparing   25X1
a request to augment his existing staff by 9-12 additional billets and people from the community. He seeks these people to assist consumers make greater use of COINS and to improve the quality of COINS files.

d. The recommendation to upgrade COINS to the TK level. This upgrading was directed by letter of 9 April 1973 from General Allen to the Directors of DIA, NSA and CIA/NPIC. Technical arrangements   25X1
to put this decision into effect have been completed and the system is now at a TK level.

e. The recommendation to improve and expand the substantive files included in COINS is being acted upon by means of a Files Selection Working Group. This interagency panel has been meeting
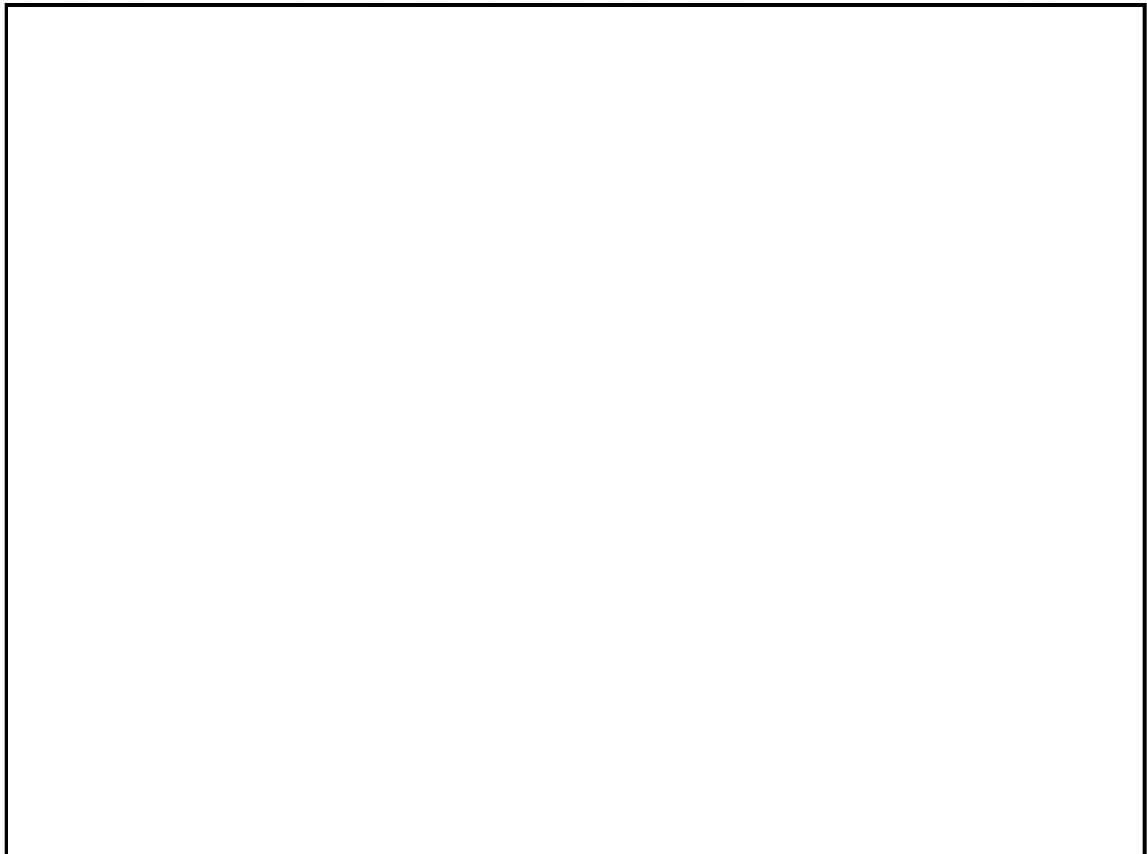
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regularly since April to review the structured files of substan-
tive information maintained by the several agencies and to evaluate
their potential for interagency use through COINS. The schedule of
this working group calls for their work to be concluded this fall.
The implementation of their conclusions, however, depends on the
outcome of the efforts (see next paragraph) to upgrade the hardware
aspects of the COINS system.

    f. The recommendation to submit a detailed plan for upgrading
the COINS system is being acted upon as follows.

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    (3) The COINS Project Manager's people are meeting with
COINS Sub-System Managers in the several agencies to collect
information leading to the preparation of a Technical Develop-
ment Plan (TDP). This plan concerns making the practical ar-
rangements for transition from the existing COINS system to the
upgraded COINS II system, while maintaining service to custo-
mers. It includes budgetary projections for all agencies for
several years beginning with FY-75. Funding implications for TDP
are not yet known; however, funding needs for the total COINS sys-
tem appear to relate primarily to (1) and (2) above.

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    f. The recommendation that COINS management reporting be strengthened, to allow evaluation of usage, timeliness and effectiveness. The COINS Project Manager states that statistical reporting procedures were completely revamped in January 1973, and that procedures are being developed to measure utility of COINS on a regular basis. Personnel and funding, not now available, will be required to carry out these functions most effectively.

4. Status of Funding for COINS

    a.   The details of examining substantive files and working out technical plans for computer netting made it impracticable to utilize these funds before their expiration on 30 June 1973. This conclusion was reaffirmed on 20 June in a meeting that included   Manager),   (Community Comptroller) and   (Director PPB/CIA).   25X1

    b. COINS Project Manager's Office current lack of funds. The COINS Project Manager states that there are no funds specifically programmed at this time for the upgrading of COINS during FY-74 and FY-75. He advises that heretofore he has been dependent on funds which he could obtain from DIA and NSA. He has proposed to OASD(I), as one alternative to regularize funding for the future, that COINS be established as a separate FYDP Program Element within the Defense budgeting system.

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(5) <u>Universal retrieval language.</u> There is consensus
that a major improvement needed by COINS is a single language
applicable to all COINS files for use by analysts in putting
their inquiries into the computerized system. It is our un-
derstanding that ASD(I) staff now has this under study. The
COINS Project Manager's financial projections, summarized
above, do not provide for funding this item.

(6) <u>Additional file storage facilities.</u> The financial
projections summarized above do not provide for this contin-
gency. The work of the Files Selection Working Group, to be
completed this fall, will provide a further basis for sizing
this problem, but no estimates have yet been formulated by the
participating agencies relative to these possible costs.

d. <u>Requirements for funding by agencies.</u> The computer netting
report (assuming acceptance by the several agencies) calls for the
COINS Project Manager's Office to fund the hardware and software for
the COINS network and its installation and maintenance, and to pro-
vide personnel to operate the Network Control Computer. DIA, NSA
and CIA/NPIC are to provide software and personnel to interface their
respective computers with the COINS network. DIA, also, is to fund
for and manage the interfacing of the IDHSC network with COINS. (See
Attachment 2 for further details on these proposed funding arrangements.)

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Attachments (2)

DCI COINS WG Representative
DCI/IC/CCG

IC Registry Subject
(D+ M6)